

Appl. No. 10/731,533

Reply to Office Action of September, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGs. 1 and 2. The first sheet, which includes FIG. 1, replaces the original sheet of FIG. 1. The second sheet, which includes FIG. 2, replaces the original sheet of FIG. 2. The shaded areas in FIGs. 1 and 2 are corrected.

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BEST AVAILABLE COPY**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4, 11-14 and 21-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 33, 35 and 37-38 have been amended. Claims 34 and 36 have been canceled. Claims 47-55 have been added.

Claims Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Action rejects Claim 1-2, 11-12 and 21-22 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,733,243 to Ogata et al. under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Claim 3, 13 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogata et al. Claims 4, 14 and 24, however, would have been allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 11 and 21 have been amended as described above.

The Applicants are grateful to the Examiner for recognizing the allowable subject matter claimed in objected Claims 4, 14 and 24. Some of the feature of original Claims 4, 14 and 24 include **priorizing the plurality of type containers** so that the containers with different priorities are moved in sequence. The amended independent Claims 1, 11 and 21 recite that **the containers have a plurality of priorities, and that one of the wafer, LCD or reticle containers having a high priority is moved out of the first stocker before one of the wafer, LCD or reticle containers having a lower priority**. Thus, the applicants submit that amended Claims 4, 14 and 24 now contain allowable subject matter.

Though Ogata discusses moving a pod from the departure stocker to the buffer stocker 70 **when the number of the pods stored in the departure stocker is higher than a predetermined number** (i.e., step S208), Ogata fails to disclose or suggest that the containers have a plurality of priorities, and that the container with higher priority should be moved out before the container with lower priority. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have applied Ogata's patent in the manner disclosed by this application. There was no motivation or suggestion in the prior art to modify Ogata's teaching to achieve applicant's claimed invention.

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For at least reasons, the amended independent Claims 1, 11 and 21 are patentable.

Claims 2-4, 12-14 and 22-24 are dependent on the independent Claims 1, 11 and 21.

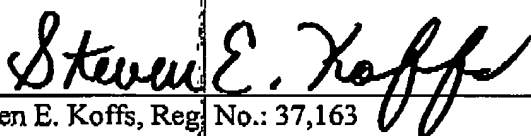
Claims 2-4, 12-14 and 22-24 are also patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to deposit account 04-1679.

Respectfully submitted,

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